

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: March 15, 1996 (Filing No. S-482)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Reported by: Senator PENDEXTER of Cumberland for the Committee.

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
117TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A" to S.P. 638, L.D. 1673, Bill, "An Act to Ensure That Charity Care Guidelines That Apply to Hospitals Also Apply to Their Subsidiaries"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Require the Department of Human Services to Provide Notice and Hearing in Cases Involving Denial of the Application of the Charity Care Guildlines'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §395-B, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. W, §4, is amended to read:

1. Charity care guidelines. The department shall adopt reasonable guidelines for policies to be adopted and implemented by hospitals with respect to the provision of health care services to patients who are determined unable to pay for the services received. The department shall adopt income guidelines that are consistent with the guidelines applicable to the Hill-Burton Program established under 42 United States Code, Section 291, et seq. (1988). The guidelines and policies must include the requirement that upon admission or, in cases of emergency admission, before discharge of a patient, hospitals must investigate the coverage of the patient by any insurance or state or federal programs of medical assistance. The guidelines

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 638, L.D. 1673

2 must include provisions for notice to the public and the
3 opportunity for a fair hearing regarding eligibility for charity
4 care.'

6 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
7 statement of fact the following:

8

9 **FISCAL NOTE**

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11 The additional costs associated with providing public notice
12 and a fair hearings process can be absorbed by the Department of
13 Human Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

14

15

16 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

17

18 This amendment removes from the bill all provisions relating
19 to the extension of the charity care guidelines to hospital
20 affiliates. It retains the provision requiring the Department of
21 Human Services to adopt a fair hearing process. The amendment
22 also adds a fiscal note.